

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5, 7-9, and 11-15 are pending in the present application, Claims 1, 2, 7, 11, and 12 having been amended, and Claims 6, 10, and 16 having been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Support for the amendments to Claims 1, 2, 7, and 11-12 is found, for example, in canceled Claims 6, 10, and 16. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Ramberg et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0014505, hereinafter Ramberg).

With respect to the rejection of Claim 6 (the subject matter of which is now included in Claim 1) as anticipated by Ramberg, Applicants respectfully traverse this ground of rejection. Amended Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*,

retrieving, from a first memory, an information associated with the selected communication protocol, wherein the information associated with the selected communication protocol includes at least a type of status information, a weight of the status information, and information for extracting the type of status information from the monitored device using the selected communication protocol, wherein the weight of the status information indicates a relative informative value of the status information with respect to status information of a same type extracted using another of the plurality of communication protocols;

determining if the type of status information is present in a second memory, wherein the second memory comprises status information previously extracted from the monitored device through a second protocol; [and]

if the determining step determines that the type of status information is present in the second memory, checking whether the weight of the status information stored in the information associated with the selected communication protocol is greater

than a corresponding weight associated with the status information of the same type stored in the second memory.

Ramberg does not disclose or suggest these elements of Claim 1.

Claim 1 describes obtaining status information from a monitored device. The monitored device may be accessed to obtain status information by using a plurality of different communication protocols. The status information that may be obtained depends on the communication protocol used. As explained in paragraph [00154] of the originally filed specification, use of the HTTP communication protocol can obtain status information indicating whether a toner level in an image forming device is high or low. Paragraph [00154] of the originally filed specification also describes that use of the SNMP protocol is able to obtain status information indicating the percentage level of toner remaining. Since the percentage level of toner is more precise than an indication of a high or low toner level, SNMP is considered to have a higher relative informative value than HTTP for the status of toner level.

The invention defined by Claim 1 utilizes “weight” or the “relative informative value” associated with different communication protocols in combination with the type of status information (i.e., toner level) to obtain the most informative status information from a monitored device.

In the invention defined by Claim 1, information associated with a communication protocol is retrieved, and this information includes “a weight of the status information...wherein the weight of the status information indicates a relative informative value of the status information with respect to status information of a same type extracted using another of the plurality of communication protocols.” When rejecting Claim 6, the Office Action referred to paragraphs [0038], [0046], [0047], [0049], and [0052] of Ramberg.

These sections of Ramberg do not disclose or suggest “weight of the status information” as defined by Claim 1.

Paragraph [0038] of Ramberg describes an MIB. The MIB “provides management information for SNMP devices,” and “describes a set of objects to SNMP devices and provides information about each object, including its structure, its relationship to other objects, and the operations allowed on the object.”¹ “The MIB essentially tells SNMP what pieces of information it can modify or view on the ADC device.”² Ramberg does not disclose or suggest that the MIB includes “a weight of the status information...wherein the weight of the status information indicates a relative informative value of the status information with respect to status information of a same type extracted using another of the plurality of communication protocols.” The general discussion of “provides information about each object” does not disclose or suggest the specific description of “weight of the status information” provided in Claim 1.

Paragraph [0046] of Ramberg describes adding a new SNMP subagent to computing system 103. Ramberg describes that the subagents “translate between the communication protocol of ADC devices 101 and 102 and the standardized SNMP protocol.”³ Ramberg does not disclose or suggest that the SNMP subagents includes “a weight of the status information...wherein the weight of the status information indicates a relative informative value of the status information with respect to status information of a same type extracted using another of the plurality of communication protocols.”

Paragraph [0046] also describes sockets that “provide an identifier for a particular device on a particular node of a network.” “The socket consists of a node address and a port number that identifies the service.”⁴ However, the node address and port number are not “a

¹ Ramberg, paragraph [0038].

² *Id.*

³ Ramberg, paragraph [[0039].

⁴ Ramberg, paragraph [0046].

weight of the status information...wherein the weight of the status information indicates a relative informative value of the status information with respect to status information of a same type extracted using another of the plurality of communication protocols.”

Paragraph [0047] of Ramberg describes HTML, DHTML, and XML pages. The HTML, DHTML, and XML pages are used to provide information and applets to remote computing system 120, which allows a remote service technician to control the ADC device platform and to receive data from the ADC device.⁵ However, there is no disclosure or suggestion in Ramberg that the HTML, DHTML, and/or the XML pages include “a weight of the status information...wherein the weight of the status information indicates a relative informative value of the status information with respect to status information of a same type extracted using another of the plurality of communication protocols.”

Paragraph [0049] of Ramberg provides details on network system manager 112. The network system manager loads initial system management information and related Java applets for transmission to the remote computing system 120.⁶ A service technician using remote computer 120 may need to utilize information from the network system manager 112.⁷ However, general descriptions of “initial system management information and related Java applets” does not disclose or suggest “a weight of the status information...wherein the weight of the status information indicates a relative informative value of the status information with respect to status information of a same type extracted using another of the plurality of communication protocols.”

Paragraph [0052] of Ramberg describes that “Java applets 420 enable remote diagnostic examination and reconfiguration on the ADC device platform 100.” “Various Java applets 410 and unit management Java applets 430 may be loaded into remote

⁵ Ramberg, paragraph [0048].

⁶ Ramberg, paragraph [0049].

⁷ Ramberg, paragraph [0050].

computing system 120.” However, there is no disclosure or suggestion that the diagnostic examination and reconfiguration in Ramberg includes “a weight of the status information...wherein the weight of the status information indicates a relative informative value of the status information with respect to status information of a same type extracted using another of the plurality of communication protocols.”

Moreover, Claim 1 also describes how the “weight of the status information” is used. If the type of status information at issues is already stored in a memory, the method of Claim 1 checks whether the weight of the status information stored in the information associated with the selected communication protocol is greater than a corresponding weight associated with the status information of the same type already stored in the memory. Advantageously, it can be determined whether more precise status information can be obtained from the monitored device.

The Office Action relies on paragraph [0038] and [0039] of Ramberg to disclose the claimed

if the determining step determines that the type of status information is present in the second memory, checking whether the weight of the status information stored in the information associated with the selected communication protocol is greater than a corresponding weight associated with the status information of the same type stored in the second memory.

Applicants respectfully traverse this position taken by the Office Action.

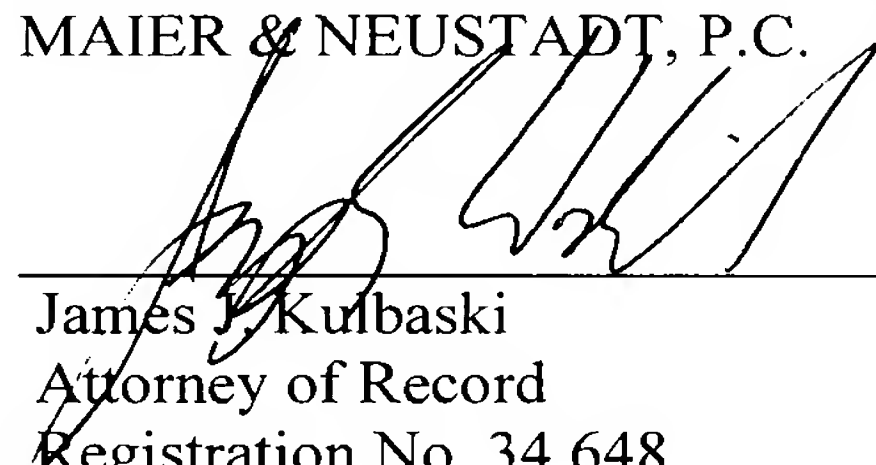
Paragraph [0038] of Ramberg, as noted above, describes the MIB. As noted above, the MIB does not disclose or suggest the “weight of the status information, and thus does not disclose or suggest the above-noted “checking” step. Paragraph [0039] of Ramberg describes that control information about each ADC device 101 and 102 is maintained in the MIB. The general description of control information does not disclose or suggest the “weight of the status information, and thus does not disclose or suggest the above-noted “checking” step.

In view of the above-noted distinctions, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 (and any claims dependent thereon) patentably distinguish over Ramberg. Claims 7 and 11, although of a different statutory class, recite elements analogous to those of Claim 1. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 7 and 11 (and any claims dependent thereon) patentably distinguish over Ramberg, for at least the reasons stated for Claim 1.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



James J. Kulbaski
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 34,648

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 08/07)
I:\ATTY\JW\245417US\245417US_AM DUE 8-5-08.DOC

Joseph Wrkich
Registration No. 53,796